

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A phytase-containing granulate prepared by ~~[[a]]~~ at least one mechanical process comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer;

(b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and

(c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram;

wherein said at least one mechanical process is selected from the group consisting of expansion, extrusion, spheronisation, pelleting, high shear granulation, and drum granulation.

19. (currently amended) A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer and at least one divalent cation.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

22. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

23. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 22 comprising a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy- propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose.

24. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 19 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or β -glucanase.

25. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the carrier comprises starch.

26. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

27. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.

28. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.

29-30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented) A composition comprising:
a granulate according to claim 18.

32. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The composition according to claim 31 which is an edible feed composition.

33. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed.

34. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s)

mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

35. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, and is prepared by a process that comprises mixing a phytase-containing granulate with one or more animal feed substance(s) or ingredient(s).

36-40. (canceled)